

In the Claims

1-4 (cancelled)

5. (new) A method for producing filled and sealed containers, comprising the steps of:

extruding a plastic tube through an extrusion head by at least first, second and third extruders forming the plastic tube with at least three layers, at least one of the layers being impermeable to oxygen and at least one of the layers being impermeable to water vapor, the extrusion head having first and second opposite sides;

locating first and second molds alternately below the extrusion head and blowing and filling devices located at respective sides of the extrusion head, the plastic tube being extruded into one of the molds when located below the extrusion head while a plastic tube previously extruded into the other of the molds is being molded into a container with a filling opening by air being blown into that plastic tube in the respective side of the extrusion head; and

filling the formed container with contents through the filling opening and then welding the filled container to seal the filling opening of the container.

6. (new) A method according to claim 5 wherein
the layers are co-extruded to form the layers of the plastic tube.

7. (new) A method according to claim 6 wherein
more than three layers are co-extruded to form the plastic tube.

8. (new) A method according to claim 6 wherein

six layers are co-extruded to form the plastic tube.

9. (new) An apparatus for producing filled and sealed containers, comprising:

an extrusion head having first and second sides;

first, second and third extruders coupled to said extrusion head to co-extrude multiple layers into a plastic tube, at least one of the layers being impermeable to oxygen, at least another of the layers being impermeable to water vapor;

first and second racks, said extrusion head and said extruders being mounted on said first rack; and

first and second blow-fill-seal devices mounted on said second rack for movement alternately below said extrusion head to receive the plastic tube and a side position in the respective side of said extrusion head such that one of said devices receives the plastic tube when below said extrusion head while another of the devices forms, fills and seals the container in the respective side position.

10. (new) An apparatus according to claim 9 wherein

a control cabinet contains controls coupled to said extruders and said devices.